



Fritz Daily
1901 Roosevelt Ave.
Butte, MT 59701

January 23, 2013

Dan Powers
Butte Silver Bow
Health Department

Dan,

Please include this letter in the official record addressing my concerns with the recent Health Study conducted by your office, Arco and the agencies.

As a lifelong Butte resident and a former seven-term member of the Montana House of Representatives, I have been directly involved with the Superfund cleanup issue in Butte for over thirty years. I served in the Legislature when the Atlantic Richfield Company closed the Smelter in Anaconda and closed the Berkeley Pit and Butte Mines. I have a good historical perspective on this issue and the positives and negatives of mining and the cleanup and restoration of this community.

I believe the Environmental Protection Agency, the State of Montana, the Atlantic Richfield/British Petroleum Company and the Local Government have failed this community in protecting the health and the environment of the Community and to providing a responsible cleanup and restoration of our community, as required by law and the Constitution.

A couple examples of the type of cleanup we have received; the Berkeley Pit currently contains over 42 billion gallons of toxic water and continues to rise---Georgetown Lake contains 10.1 billion. We have learned since the Record of Decision was issued on Butte Priority Soils that the groundwater in the Parrott Tailings area around the Civic Center is more toxic than Berkeley Pit Water and many experts believe a plume of toxic groundwater is spreading out over the town from that area and further contaminating the community.

Anyone who lives in this community and does not believe that the cancer rates and other diseases like MS, emphysema in adults, asthma in our children, and other lung related diseases are not higher in Butte than in other communities in Montana is naive!

Several months back a very reputable Butte resident, Stacy Barry, prepared a Doctorate Dissertation on the cancer rates in Butte. She prepared this information under the advice and assistance of professors from Montana Tech and the University of Montana outlining the facts. The way the Environmental Protection Agency, the State of Montana, the Atlantic Richfield/British Petroleum Company have dealt with this research was to "kill the messenger" rather than dealing with the message.

I do not see the recent health study as being much different. The residents of Butte deserve and want the facts and the truth. The purpose of the health Study should be to determine the facts as they exist and then to take the necessary steps to address the facts. It appears the purpose of this study is designed to justify the irresponsible Superfund cleanup in Butte and not to address the health issues facing Butte that the residents of Butte deal with on a daily basis. I hope I am wrong.

The Atlantic Richfield Company/British Petroleum Company is funding the study and they hired and chose the contractor conducting the study. I have absolutely no doubt that the local people currently involved with the Health Study of this committee are good folks and are trying to do what is right. The problem they face is that as long as they receive their research and information from the Federal and State agencies, and the Atlantic Richfield/British Petroleum Company their research is always going to be suspect.

I have said for years that Butte needs an unbiased analysis by some independent environmental research firm or University outlining what truly is necessary to have a responsible cleanup and restoration of the Community. The same holds true for this health study---Butte needs a totally independent analysis of the health situation of the community. Until this happens, folks from Butte will always be suspect.

I am currently involved along with Sister Mary Jo McDonald and Ron Davis as members of the Silver Bow Creek Headwaters Coalition in a lawsuit concerning the name of Silver Bow Creek flowing through Butte.

The agencies and ARCO continue to call Silver Bow Creek flowing through Butte Metro Storm Drain, even though they know it is not Metro Storm Drain and its proper legal name is Silver Bow Creek. We believe the State's repeated references to Silver Bow Creek flowing through Butte, as the "Metro Storm Drain" in public documents and other references are illegal, and degrade the Creek's status as the headwaters of the Clark Fork and Columbia Rivers.

We also believe the reason they chose and continue to call it Metro Storm Drain is so they will not have to provide the responsible cleanup and restoration of this section of Silver Bow Creek that is now taking place on the Creek from Interstate 15 to the Warm Springs Ponds. Unbelievable!

Sincerely,

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